



## COMMISSIONER'S INTRO

I'm excited to announce we are reactivating our departmental newsletter, *The Loop*. There are many initiatives under way in the Department of Social Services. We are grateful for the opportunity to inform and update you, our colleagues, constituents, and stakeholders. While our mission continues in providing an easily accessible system of human services for Fayette County, our vision and values have been refined to more clearly articulate the vitally-important priorities for service delivery.

*The Loop* will be published monthly. Our plan is to regularly share highlights of recent activities; to introduce key leadership members; to feature major projects or accomplishments; to recognize contributions of affiliated boards and commissions; and to profile partnerships we are fortunate to foster across our community.

Thanks for your support of the team at Lexington's Department of Social Services. We hope you find our newsletter to be interesting and informative. Here's to keeping our partners in *The Loop*!

Chris Ford  
Commissioner of Social Services

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## NEW SENIOR CENTER GRAND OPENING

September 9, 2016

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Mayor Jim Gray, members of the Urban County Council, and Lexington's senior adults are celebrating a new center that meets the needs of today's seniors, 33 years after Lexington opened its original center for seniors.

"Lexington's seniors are going to love this place," Gray said. "It's 33,000 square feet devoted to their interests, their needs and their priorities. This is a big step forward for our city."

The new center includes space for fitness, classrooms, music, dancing, cards, billiards, reading, dining and more.

Barb Welsch, Chair of the Seniors Participant Council, said seniors are excited about the new opportunities. "The ability to learn together and grow together and have new experiences together is wonderful," said Welsch, who has been coming to the Center since she retired in 2010. "We've waited a long time for this new center to come, but with all it offers us, it was worth the wait."

The new Center sits on property the government already owned and used as a park. Now a redeveloped Idle Hour Park has facilities for seniors, neighbors and young people including gardens, a playground, a walking trail, pickleball courts, football, baseball and softball fields, and shuffleboard courts.

"When we say now there's something for everyone in Idle Hour Park, we mean it," Gray said.

Councilmember Bill Farmer, who represents the neighborhoods surrounding the center, said, "We revamped the park to build the building. But we have put back a redeveloped park that offers much more to Idle Hour neighbors. Thanks to all of them for their patience."

The \$13 million facility is full of natural light, color, features and furniture reflecting best practices in senior design. John Catlin, the project's "senior design" consultant, has built 50 senior centers across the country.

There also was a lot of input on the Center from the senior adults and city staff, including Commissioner of Social Services Chris Ford, Director of Aging and Disability Services Kristy Stambaugh, and Center Director Sean Wright.

EOP Architects, Lexington, led by Harding Dowell, designed the building, which also incorporates many energy saving features. It will be LEED certified. General Contractor was Marrillia Design and Construction, also a Lexington company. Construction began in October of 2014.

**Nearly 2,000  
new participants have  
joined since the  
Grand Opening!  
Our next newsletter  
will share highlights  
and updates.**

## COORDINATING COUNCIL NAMES NEW OFFICERS

The Domestic Violence Prevention Board is pleased to announce its newly elected Executive Committee:



Chair	<b>Kelly Wells</b> <i>Victim's Advocate, Fayette County Attorney's Office</i>
Vice Chair	<b>Diane Fleet</b> <i>Assistant Director, GreenHouse17</i>
Secretary	<b>Sgt. Jeremiah Harville</b> <i>Lexington Police Department, Special Victims Unit</i>

We are excited about the expertise, talent, and energy these new leaders bring! We also salute our retiring Executive Committee for their commitment and many years of service: Rashmi Adi-Brown of CHES Solutions Group; Velva Reed-Barker of Fayette County Public Schools; and Mary Lynn Houlihan of the Fayette County Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Commissioner Chris Ford remains as Board Treasurer.

The Domestic Violence Prevention Board was established by local ordinance in 1986. For more info, please contact **Stephanie Theakston**, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator at 859.258.3803 or via email at [stheakston@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:stheakston@lexingtonky.gov). Also, you may connect with us on social media.



[www.facebook.com/LexStopDV](https://www.facebook.com/LexStopDV)



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## CITY MENTORS PLEDGE TO INVEST IN LOCAL YOUTH



In February, the Lexington Fayette Urban County Council adopted an ordinance which allows city employees paid leave (up to two hours per week) while serving as mentors to local youth. Employees must be full-time, civil service status; and committed to serve a minimum of 1 year. *City Mentors* will allow local government to make available positive role models, while also introducing mentees to the vast and diverse occupations and service areas across LFUCG.

**Partners for Youth**, a local nonprofit dedicated to positive youth development, is now leading the effort to launch this program. Initially, *City Mentors* will collaborate with four local organizations: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, Lexington Leadership Foundation, Lexington Parks and Recreation, and Fayette County Public Schools (*aka Give 10*). To date, 19 persons have signed up to become a City Mentor. We are grateful for all who invest in our community through mentoring!







**LEXINGTON**  
*Social Services*

## Leadership Team

**Joanna Rodes**  
Director,  
Family Services

**Stephanie Hong**  
Director,  
Youth Services

**Connie Godfrey**  
Director,  
Adult & Tenant Services

**Kristy Stambaugh**  
Director,  
Aging & Disability Services

**Stephanie Theakston**  
Coordinator, Domestic  
Violence Prevention

**Isabel Taylor**  
Coordinator,  
Multicultural Affairs

**Amy Baker**  
Coordinator,  
SAVI Program

**Laura Hatfield**  
Executive Director,  
Partners for Youth



## SOCIAL WORK MONTH

**WHEREAS**, the primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable in society; and

**WHEREAS**, social workers embody this year's National Social Work Month theme, "Social Workers Stand Up!" by serving, advocating for, and empowering millions of Americans each day; and

**WHEREAS**, our city's Department of Social Services employs over 30 social work professionals whose training and ethical standards help promote the values of compassion, compliance, coordination, and consistency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM GRAY, MAYOR OF LEXINGTON,  
DO HEREBY DECLARE MARCH 2017:**

**SOCIAL WORK MONTH IN LEXINGTON**

  
MAYOR



Thanks for serving to empower those in need.  
This year's theme says it best, **Social Workers Stand Up!**

## SAVI PROMOTES RECOVERY & TREATMENT OPTIONS

Access to substance abuse treatment services can mean the difference between life and death for many struggling with substance use disorder. In April 2016, SAVI Program Coordinator Amy Baker began providing substance abuse treatment education and referrals to Needle Exchange Program participants at the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department. Like many cities across the U.S., Lexington continues to see a dramatic increase in the number of overdose fatalities, from 81 in 2013, and rising to 150 in 2016.

In 2015, the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 192, allowing local communities the option to operate needle exchange programs. The Urban County Council and Board of Health both adopted authorizing resolutions in summer 2015.

The Needle Exchange started in September 2015, and serves clients each Friday afternoon. A total of 84,723 dirty needles have been collected, and 110,418

clean needles have been distributed. The needle exchange provides Lexington with a tool to combat the potential outbreak of communicable diseases such as HIV, and Hepatitis C.

Offering substance abuse treatment referrals during the needle exchange program is one way to make an impact on the number of overdose deaths because it improves access to treatment. The referral program helps participants navigate the sometimes overwhelming substance abuse treatment system, and helps connect participants with life-saving programming. To date, 56 persons have been counseled on local resources, and referred to substance abuse treatment. The Needle Exchange Program illustrates the value of real partnership between our county health department and local government. SAVI plays a key role!

A poster for the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department Needle Exchange. It features a large blue and green circular arrow graphic. The text is as follows:

LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
**NEEDLE EXCHANGE**  
**ANONYMOUS & CONFIDENTIAL**  
**650 Newtown Pike**  
Follow the signs to the Dr. Rice C. Leach Community Room  
**Fridays | 11AM-4:30 PM**  
*You must bring in used needles to receive new needles.*  
**WHAT DO WE OFFER?**

- Safe disposal of used needles
- Clean needles
- Confidential Hepatitis C testing (optional)
- Onsite treatment referral (optional): 11 AM-4 PM
- FREE confidential HIV & Syphilis testing (optional)
- Education

**QUESTIONS?**  
CALL US: 859-288-2437

LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & VIOLENCE INTERVENTION (SAVI)

Amy Baker, Program Coordinator

859.258.3834 | [abaker@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:abaker@lexingtonky.gov) | [gethelpflex.org](http://gethelpflex.org)

**GetHelpLex**

## FAMILIAR FACES, NEW SPACES

The past 24 months have been fast-paced and transitional for Social Services. In addition to opening the new Lexington Senior Center, other programs and services have also found new work stations throughout the city:



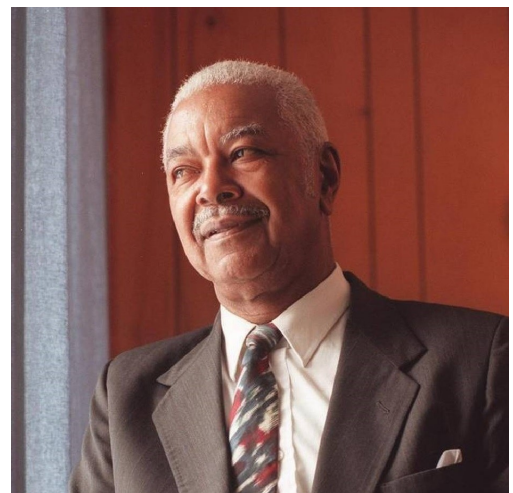
*Global LEX, 1306 Versailles Road, Suite 110*

The Lexington Global Engagement Center aka **Global LEX** opened its doors at the Versailles Road Government Campus in summer 2015. Global LEX is where local residents and Lexington's growing foreign-born population celebrate cultural events, can find multilingual assistance and pursue cross-cultural education. Global LEX is led by Isabel Taylor, our Multicultural Affairs Coordinator, who also works closely with the Mayor's International Affairs Advisory Commission.

The **Black & Williams Neighborhood Center**, 498 Georgetown Street, is now home of the Division of Adult and Tenant Services, as well as the Youth Development Center. **Adult Services** provides supportive services to aid low-income residents, and case management for vulnerable adults. They may be reached at 859.300.5300. The **Youth Development Center** offers parental and caregiver support for families of local youth. YDC also leads the Summer Youth Job Training Program (SYJTP), and may be reached at 859.300.5330. Our Social Services team members are proud to complement the services and activities of ElderCrafters and NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), both whom have been long-time programs at the Black & Williams Center, in Lexington's West End.

For many years, the Divisions of Family Services and Youth Services have been stationed at a campus located just off of Red Mile Road. Last fall, the street formerly known as Red Mile Place was officially renamed **Harry Sykes Way**, in honor of the first African-American elected to Lexington City Commission (in 1963).

Harry Sykes is fondly remembered as a trailblazer. In addition to holding elected office, he was also an appointed government official, and led the community campaign to found the local chapter of the National Urban League. Recently, Mayor Jim Gray, Councilmember James Brown and Commissioner Ford welcomed the Sykes family at the Family Care Center to ceremonially dedicate the street renaming. Mr. Sykes died in 2012, at age 85.







## The Family Care Center's Early Child Care Program

We are pleased to announce that the Family Care Center's Early Child Care program has achieved **FIVE STARS** by the state's Division of Child Care and Department of Education!

Kentucky All STARS is our state's expanded five-star quality rating and improvement system for early-care and education programs. The STARS system recognizes programs that have made a commitment to continuous quality improvement.

FIVE STARS is the highest rating that a program can receive and is granted based on high scores in the following domains:

- Classroom and instructional quality
- Staff qualifications and professional development
- Family and community engagement
- Administrative and leadership practices

Please join us in congratulating Family Services' Director Joanna Rodes and our amazing Child Care team!



FAMILY CARE CENTER

1135 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY 40504

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# LEXINGTON

## *Social Services*

### **SERVICES FROM CRADLE TO ROCKING CHAIR!**

Lexington Department of Social Services is a **network** of resources and expertise which service the **unmet** basic needs of **multi-generational** constituencies

#### **MISSION**

To provide and support an easily accessible system of human services for Fayette County

#### **VISION**

We empower our vulnerable and underserved residents with high quality direct services, effective programming, and viable resources

#### **VALUES**

Compassion   Compliance   Coordination   Consistency

#### **CLIENT-BASED SERVICES:**

Family Services  
Youth Services  
Adult & Tenant Services  
Aging & Disability Services

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

Domestic Violence Prevention  
Partners for Youth  
Multicultural Affairs  
Substance Abuse & Violence Intervention

#### **CENTRAL PROGRAM SITES:**

**Harry Sykes Campus** (*Red Mile*):  
Family Care & Day Treatment Centers

**Versailles Road Campus**  
Global Engagement Center (*Global LEX*)

**Tates Creek Campus**  
Gainesway Community Center

**Idle Hour Park**  
Lexington Senior Center

**West End**  
Black & Williams Neighborhood Center

**East End**  
Charles Young Center

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